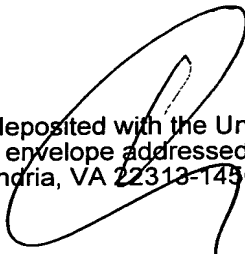


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Services on the date set forth below as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date of Signature
and Deposit: March 29, 2004



Carl R. Schwartz, Reg. No. 29,437

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Steven B. Mineau et al.
Serial No.: --
Filed: March 26, 2004
For: DETACHABLE TUBE ASSEMBLY

Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97-1.98, Applicants are submitting herewith a list of documents on form PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is enclosed.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

No fee is believed necessary for the consideration of this information disclosure statement. However, if one is please charge that fee to Deposit Account 17-0055.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner, be made of record in the present

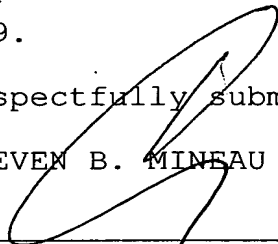
application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP § 609.

Respectfully submitted,

STEVEN B. MINEAU ET AL.

Dated: March 29, 2004

By:



Carl R. Schwartz
Reg. No.: 29,437
Quarles & Brady LLP
411 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
(414) 277-5715

MKE\5556323

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1
-------	---

of	1
----	---

Filing Date

First Named Inventor

March 29, 2004

First Named Inventor

Steven B. Mineau

Art Unit

Examiner Name _____

Attorney Docket Number

J-4000

[illegible][illegible]Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3).⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible.⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.